

## **Delta Nutrient Science Action Plan Outline and Process**

Revised June 19, 2018

### Science Action Plan Outline

1. Introduction/Statement of purpose
2. Management questions
3. Timeline for answering questions
4. Target funding levels
5. Conceptual models
6. Major themes and approaches
  - a. Coordination
  - b. Research and Modeling
  - c. Protective thresholds and assessment framework
  - d. Management options and feasibility
7. Information gap analysis
  - a. Summary of White Paper recommendations
  - b. Additional recommendations
8. Priority information gaps and timelines

### Roles and Responsibilities

- Regional Board and stakeholders establish priorities in Section 1-4 through small group and STAG meetings
- ASC provides facilitation services for small group meetings and drafts Sections 1-4
- ASC convenes technical experts to draft of Sections 5-8 for the Regional Board.
- Regional Board presents draft plan to stakeholders through STAG/Delta RMP Nutrients Subcommittee.
- ASC incorporates comments.
- Regional Board approves final plan

### Outcomes from May 16, 2018 STAG Meeting

#### **Management Questions that will be the Focus of the 5-Year Science Action Plan**

Want to answer the following questions over 5 years:

- How do we identify or describe problem conditions? (Assessment Framework)
- Do we have a water quality problem?
- Are nutrients contributing to the problem?\*
- Which (nutrient) sources and processes are most important to understand and quantify?\*

*\*looking holistically at nutrients and other environmental factors related to the problem.*

Want some planning effort on the following questions over 5 years:

- Can nutrient management help address or ameliorate the problem?
- How much of a reduction in nutrient loads is feasible?

**Short-Term Tasks to Implement in 6-18 Months**

- Coordination is the immediate need for HABs, macrophytes, and phytoplankton productivity. The existing monitoring and research on these issues is not being adequately coordinated and synthesized.
- Better characterize issues (e.g., illustrate when and where issues occur using mapping), particularly for HABs and aquatic macrophytes (answers management question #1 and is preliminary to working on Assessment Framework)
- Continue model development and determine scenarios to be tested
- Investigate and identify new monitoring tools before implementing further monitoring.